

REORGANIZATION PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

(Each municipality in a School Union must be indicated separately.)

School Administrative Units Included in APPROVED Notice of Intent	School Administrative Units Submitting Reorganization Plan
MSAD #4	MSAD #4
MSAD #46	MSAD #46
Harmony	Harmony
Willimantic	Willimantic

Contact Information:

RPC Chair

Name: Paul Bridge

Address: 96 Harlow Pond Road
Parkman, Maine 04443

Telephone: 876-3149

email: Linda274343@verizon.net

Date Plan Submitted: 11-12-08

Proposed RSU Operational Date: 7-1-09

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Reorganization Plan Cover Sheet
(Please attach Reorganization Plan as Exhibit A)

Required Elements							
Law Reference Item Number Sub-Chapter 2		N / A	C o m p l e t e	I n P r o g r e s s	N o t Y e t S t a r t e d	I d e n t i f i e d B a r r i e r 1	N e e d A s s i s t a n c e 2
	Item						
3.A(1)	SAUs included in RSU		x				
3.A(2)	Size of governing body		x				
	Composition of governing body		x				
	Apportionment of governing body		x				
3.A(3)	Method of voting of the governing body		x				
3.A(4)	Composition of local school committees	x					
	Powers of local school committees	x					
	Duties of local school committees	x					
3.A(5)	Disposition of real & personal school property		x				
3.A(6)	Disposition of existing school indebtedness (if not using provisions of section 1506)		x				
	Disposition of lease-purchase obligations (if not using provisions of section 1506)		x				
3.A(7)	Assignment of school personnel contracts		x				
	Assignment of school collective bargaining agreements		x				
	Assignment of other school contractual obligations		x				
3.A(8)	Disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations		x				
3.A(9)	Transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year		x				
	Transition plan that addresses interim personnel policies		x				
3.A(10)	Documentation of the public meeting(s) held to prepare or review reorganization plan		x				
3.A(11)	Explanation of how units that approve reorganization plan will proceed if one or more units do not approve the plan		x				
3.A(12)	Estimate of cost savings to be achieved		x				
3.A(13)	Such other matters as the governing bodies of the school administrative units in existence on the effective date of this chapter may determine to be necessary		x				

1 Please explain why this is a barrier and what assistance you need to remove this barrier on the next page.
2 Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on page 3.

Parameters for Plan Development							
Law Reference Item Number Sub-Chapter 2		N / A	C o m p l e t e	I n P r o g r e s s	N o t Y e t S t a r t e d	I d e n t i f i e d B a r r i e r s	N e e d e d A s s i s t a n c e ⁴
	Item						
3.B(1)	Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception ⁵)		x				
Sec. XXXX-36, Parameter B	When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU		x				
3.B(2)	Comprehensive programming for all students grades K - 12.		x				
	Includes at least one publicly supported high school		x				
3.B(3)	Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451		x				
3.B(4)	No displacement of teachers		x				
	No displacement of students		x				
	No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512		x				
Sec. XXXX-26, Parameter F	The plan must address how the school administrative unit will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that the projected expenditures of the reorganized school unit in fiscal year 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program ⁶		x				
Collaborative Agreements							
						Y e s	N o
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? (not required, but encouraged)						x	

Exceptions to 2,500 minimum

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 1952

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)
		Yes No

3 Please explain why this is a barrier and what assistance you need to remove this barrier on the next page.

4 Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on page 3.

5 Please note in the *Exceptions to 2500 minimum* section on next page

6 This requirement is only for those who plan to be operational as an RSU in fiscal year 2008-2009, in accordance with a Reorganization Plan that is approved by the Commissioner and by the voters.

Geography	x		
Demographics			
Economics			
Transportation			
Population Density	x		
Other Unique Circumstances			

Explanation of Barriers –

Please use this section to explain any/all barriers identified on the previous page as a barrier in completing your Reorganization Plan.

Law Reference/Required Element	Explanation of the barrier

Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

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REORGANIZATION PLAN

SAU Submitting: SAD #4, SAD #46, Harmony, Willimantic

Contact Information: Paul Bridge
96 Harlow Pond Road
Parkman, Maine 04443

Date Submitted by SAU: December 2, 2008

Proposed RSU Operational Date: July 1, 2009

1. **The units of school administration to be included in the proposed reorganized regional school unit.**

The proposed regional school unit* includes the following school administrative units:

- A. Town of Harmony, a municipal school unit
- B. Maine School Administrative District No. 4
- C. Maine School Administrative District No. 46
- D. Town of Willimantic, a municipal school unit

* The RPC recommends that the RSU board consider public input when selecting a name for the proposed RSU.

2. **The size, composition and apportionment of the governing body.**

See #3

3. The method of voting of the governing body.

The regional school unit board shall be composed of eighteen regular members and four student members. Each municipality in the RSU shall elect the following number of its residents to serve on the Board and their votes shall be weighted as follows:

The regional school unit board shall use weighted voting as follows:

Municipality	Population	# of Board members	Votes per member
1 Dexter	3,736	5	61
2 Guilford	1,511	2	62
3 Sangerville	1,254	2	51
4 Garland	957	1	78
5 Exeter	993	1	81
6 Harmony	964	1	79
7 Parkman	807	1	66
8 Abbot	628	1	51
9 Cambridge	530	1	43
10 Ripley	487	1	40
11 Wellington	266	1	22
12 Willimantic	134	1	11
Sub - total	12,267	18	1,000
Dexter Regional High School	N/A	2	0
Piscataquis Community High School	N/A	2	0
Total	12,267	22	1000

Each regular board member shall serve a 3-year term, except that the initial terms of the members of the first regional school unit board shall be staggered in the following manner as provided by Section XXXX-40:

<u>Town</u>	<u>3-year term</u>	<u>2-year term</u>	<u>1-year term</u>
Dexter	1	2	2
Guilford	1		1
Sangerville	1	1	
Garland			1
Exeter		1	
Harmony	1		
Cambridge			1
Wellington		1	
Willimantic	1		
Abbot			1
Ripley		1	
Parkman	1		
Totals:			
1 year - 6			
2 year - 6			
3 year - 6			

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE RSU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors recognizes that its decisions directly affect the students of the school administrative unit.

In order to provide an opportunity for input and involvement, the Board shall invite the Dexter Regional High School (DRHS) Student Council and Piscataquis Community High School (PCHS) Student Council to each designate two of its members to serve as representatives to the Board subject to the provisions of this policy.

Two student representatives, each from separate graduating classes, will be elected by the DRHS Student Council, and two student representatives, each from separate graduating classes, will be elected from the PCHS Student Council. Representatives will be chosen using a simple majority vote in elections held by October 1st of each year. In a year where there are no students from separate graduation classes seeking election, both representatives from each school may be from the same class. If a student representative position becomes vacant, the Student Council of the respective school will elect another member to serve in that capacity for the remainder of the fiscal year term.

Student representatives are subject to the following additional provisions:

1. Student representatives shall be seated with the RSU Board Members and may participate in discussion during regular board meetings, special board meetings, and board workshops to represent the views of their peers.
 2. Student representatives may be appointed by the School Board Chair to a standing committee of the board as an ex-officio member.
 3. Student representatives may be appointed to advisory committees by the Board.
 4. No substitute shall be allowed to serve instead of the student representative at any meeting.
 5. Student representatives shall adhere to the RSU by-laws, policies, and regulations, including the Board Member Code of Ethics. Failure to do so may result in suspension or revocation of the privilege of serving as a representative to the School Board.
 6. Student representatives may not make or second motions.
 7. Student representatives may vote on any question. The vote will be recorded but will not count toward the final tally.
 8. Student representatives do not count toward determining whether a quorum exists.
 9. Student representatives may not receive any compensation for attending board meetings.
 10. Student representatives may not participate in any executive session of the School Board.
 11. Student representatives shall not have access to confidential materials including but not limited to those prepared in anticipation of executive session.
 12. Student representatives may not participate in negotiations with any bargaining units or in discussion or deliberation concerning the hiring, evaluation, compensation or other matters related to the employment of any personnel.
4. **The composition, powers and duties of any local school committees to be created.**

Not Applicable

5. The disposition of real and personal school property.

A. Real Property and Fixtures. Except as listed below, all real property interests, including without limitation, land, buildings, other improvements to realty, easements, option rights, first refusal rights, and purchase rights, and all fixtures of the school administrative units shall be property of the region. The regional school unit board may require such deeds, assignments or other instruments of transfer as in its judgment is necessary to establish the region's right, title and interest in such real property and fixtures.

All real property and fixtures shall be transferred to the regional school unit, subject to the following provisions with respect to buildings that will be replaced by the new K-8 school in Dexter that is scheduled to open by August 25, 2010. The following properties will be closed pursuant to 20-A, section 4102, sub-section (1) and shall be disposed of pursuant to 20-A, section 4103, sub-section (3) Transfer to Municipality if accepted by the municipality.:

1. The Courser Memorial School shall be closed effective August 31, 2009 and transferred to the Town of Ripley on September 1, 2009, if accepted by the Town of Ripley.

2. The Dexter Primary & Middle School shall be closed effective August 31, 2010 and transferred to the Town of Dexter on September 1, 2010, if accepted by the Town of Dexter.

3. The Garland Elementary School shall be closed effective August 31, 2010 and transferred to the Town of Garland on September 1, 2010, if accepted by the Town of Garland.

4. The Superintendent's Office in Dexter shall be closed effective August 31, 2010 and transferred to the Town of Dexter on September 1, 2010, if accepted by the Town of Dexter.

If any of the above properties is not accepted by the municipality in which it is located, the RSU may dispose of said property in accordance with applicable law.

B. Personal Property. All other tangible school personal property, including movable equipment, furnishings, textbooks and other curriculum materials, supplies and inventories shall become property of the region as successor of the SAUs.

C. Agreements to Share or to Jointly Own Property. In cases where real or personal school property is shared or is jointly used by an SAU with a municipality or other party, the regional school unit shall be the successor in interest to the SAU, unless that shared or jointly used property has been excepted in the above list of excepted real property or, as applicable, the above list of excepted personal property.

6. The disposition of existing school indebtedness and lease-purchase obligations if the parties elect not to use the provisions of Section 1506 regarding the disposition of debt obligations.

A. Bonds, Notes and Lease Purchase Agreements That the Region Will Assume. Bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements issued by an SAU before the operative date of the region shall be assumed by the region, provided the SAU issued the bond, note or lease purchase agreement in the normal course of its management of the schools for an essential purpose to replace its existing facilities and existing items of equipment that are no longer serviceable or to keep them in normal operating condition. The RSU shall assume responsibility for the following:

SAU	Project Description	Principal Amount	Date Authorized by SAU Legislative Body
SAD #46	K-8 School	\$28,219,082	March 27, 2007
SAD #4	Piscataquis Community Middle School	\$1,921,250	1993

B. New Capital Project Debt that the Region Will Issue and Assume. If the voters or other applicable legislative body of an SAU has authorized the issuance of bonds for a school construction or a minor capital project, but the SAU has not issued all of the authorized permanent bonds for that project, the regional school unit board shall issue bonds or notes to finance the completion of that project and to refund any temporary notes that the SAU issued for that project, as required by 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1506(5). With respect to such new project debt, the region shall assume liability to pay the following bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements:

C. Defaulted Debt is Excluded from Being Assumed. Notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary, except where legally required to do so, the region will not assume any bond, note or lease purchase agreement as to which the SAU is in breach or has defaulted.

D. Other Debt Not Assumed. Except as provided in this section of the Plan, the region will not assume liability for any bonds, notes or lease purchase agreements issued by an SAU prior to the operative date of the region.

7. The assignment of school personnel contracts, school collective bargaining agreements and other school contractual obligations.

A. School Personnel Contracts. A list of all written individual employment contracts to which each of the existing SAUs follows. Pursuant to Section XXXX-43(5),

individuals on the list who are employed on the day before the operational date shall become employed by the RSU as of the operational date, and their contracts shall be assumed by the RSU on the operational date. This provision does not prevent the existing SAUs from terminating or non-renewing the contracts of employees in accordance with applicable law before the operational date of the RSU. The list shall be updated and made final no later than the day before the operational date of the RSU. The duties and assignments of all employees transferred to the RSU shall be determined by the Superintendent of the RSU or his/her designee.

SAD #4 POSITIONS	CONTRACT END DATE
Elementary Guidance	8/31/2009
Executive Secretary / Food Service	6/30/2010
High School Principal	6/30/2011
Transportation Director	6/30/2010
Maintenance Director	6/30/2010
District School Nurse	8/31/2009
Speech Pathologist	8/31/2009
Special Education/NCLB Coordinator	6/30/2011
High School Guidance	6/30/2010
Payroll Specialist	6/30/2009
Elementary Principal, Curriculum Coordinator	6/30/2011
Computer Technician	6/30/2009
Technology Coordinator	6/30/2010
Middle School Principal	6/30/2011
½ time Social Worker	8/31/2009
High School Assistant Principal	6/30/2010
Business Manager	6/30/2010
Superintendent	6/30/2011
SAD #46 POSITIONS	CONTRACT END DATE
Librarian – DRHS	6/30/2010
Principal, DRHS	6/30/2010
Secretary	6/30/2009
Student Support Services Director – TCTC	8/15/2009
Assistant Principal, DRHS	6/30/2010
Technology Coordinator, District	6/30/2009
Head Teacher, GES	8/31/2009
Maintenance Director	6/30/2009
Social Worker	6/30/2009
Guidance Counselor – DRHS	8/31/2009
Head Teacher, ECS	8/31/2009
Reading Recovery Teacher Leader	6/30/2009
Superintendent	6/30/2011

Transportation Director	6/30/2009
TCTC – Academic Coordinator	8/31/2009
Special Education Director	6/30/2010
Secretary/Administrative Assistant	6/30/2009
Behavior Specialist/Positive Action Coordinator	6/30/2009
Nurse	8/31/2009
Director of Food Service	8/31/2009
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director – DMS	6/30/2010
Principal, DMS/ECS	6/30/2010
Athletic Director – DRHS	8/31/2009
Technology Coordinator – DRHS	6/30/2009
Secretary	6/30/2008
Tri-County Technical Center Director	6/30/2010
Principal, DPS/GES	6/30/2010
HARMONY POSITIONS	CONTRACT END DATE
Interim Superintendent	6/30/2009
Principal	6/30/2010
Business Manager	6/30/2009

- B. School Collective Bargaining Agreements. The following collective bargaining agreements to which the SAUs are a party shall be assumed by the regional school unit board as of the operational date:

SAU	Positions Included in Bargaining Unit	Next Termination Date
SAD #4	Teachers	2011
SAD #4	All support staff	2010
SAD #46	Teachers	2011
SAD #46	Custodians	2011
SAD #46	Bus Drivers	2011 expected
SAD #46	Ed Techs/Secretaries/Lunch	2011
Harmony	Teachers	2009
Harmony	All support staff	2009

All of the employer's rights and responsibilities with respect to collective bargaining shall be fully assumed by the regional school unit board as of the operational date.

- C. Other School Contractual Obligations. Following is a list of all contracts to which the existing SAUs are a party and that the RSU will assume as of the operational date.

SAU	Contracting Party	Type of Contract	Expiration Date
SAD 4	Willimantic	Student Transportation	6/30/2009
Harmony	SAD #46	Student Tuition (9-12)	6/30/2016

8. **The disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations, including undesignated fund balances, trust funds, reserve funds and other funds appropriated for school purposes.**

A. Existing Financial Obligations. Pursuant to Section XXXX-36(5) of P.L. 2007, c-240, the disposition of existing financial obligations is governed by this plan. Summer salaries shall be the responsibility of the RSU.

Existing financial obligations shall include the following:

- (i) all accounts payable;
- (ii) to the extent not included as accounts payable, any financial obligations which under generally accepted accounting principles would be considered expenses of the SAU for any year prior to the year the RSU becomes operational, whether or not such expenses were budgeted by the SAU in the year the obligations were incurred, and
- (iii) all other liabilities arising under generally accepted accounting principles that can be reasonably estimated and are probable.

Each SAU shall satisfy its existing financial obligations from all legally available funds. If an SAU has not satisfied all of its existing financial obligations, the SAU shall transfer sufficient funds to the region to satisfy its remaining existing financial obligations, and the regional school unit board shall be authorized to satisfy those existing financial obligations on behalf of the SAU. If the SAU does not transfer to the region sufficient funds to satisfy its existing financial obligations, then to the extent permitted by law, the regional school unit board may satisfy those obligations from balances that the SAU transfers to the region. If the available balances transferred are insufficient to satisfy the SAU's existing financial obligations, or are not legally available for that purpose, the regional school unit board may take any action permitted by law so that all of the municipalities of the region are treated equitably with respect to the unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an SAU. For example, to the extent permitted by law, the regional school unit board may satisfy the unpaid existing financial obligations of an

SAU in the same manner and with the same authority as for un-assumed debt under the provisions of 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1506(4).

Additionally, to the extent permitted by law, if in the judgment of the regional school unit board it must raise funds from all its members to satisfy existing financial obligations of an SAU, the regional school unit board also shall be authorized to raise additional amounts for the purpose of making equitable distributions (which may be made in the form of credits against assessed local shares of the region's approved budget) to those region members that would otherwise bear costs attributable to unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an SAU for which they had no financial responsibility. The intent of the preceding sentence is that financial responsibility for unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an SAU be borne by its members and not by the other members of the region.

B. Remaining Balances. The balance remaining in the SAU's school accounts after the SAU has satisfied existing financial obligations in accordance with this plan shall be paid to the treasurer of the regional school unit, verified by audit and used to reduce that SAU's contribution as provided by Section XXXX-43(4). Unless the Legislature otherwise provides, in the case of a school administrative district, community school district or other regional school district (collectively, "district"), the school board of the district shall specify in writing to the regional school unit board how the region shall allocate transferred remaining balances between district members. Unless the Legislature otherwise provides, if the district board has not specified in writing to the regional school unit board how this allocation shall occur, then the transferred remaining balances shall be credited to the district's members in proportion to their respective shares of that portion of the total local costs of the region allocable to all of the district's members for the operational year.

Transfers of remaining balances may occur within the period specified by Section XXXX-43(4), or, as may be preferable in the case of a district, at any time before the district has closed its accounts and ceased normal operations.

C. Reserve Funds. SAUs shall transfer remaining balances of reserve funds to the regional school unit. Unless otherwise provided by applicable law, a transferred reserve fund shall be used in accordance with its original purpose to benefit a school or schools of the SAU. Transferred reserve funds shall be subject to Title 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1491, except that the transfer of funds in a reserve fund or a change in purpose of the fund may only occur in such manner that the funds continue to benefit the members of the SAU that transferred that reserve fund to the region.

D. Scholarship Funds. SAUs shall transfer remaining balances of scholarship funds to the region. Scholarships shall be limited to the original pool of potential recipients unless otherwise provided by the donor or by applicable law.

E. Trust Funds. SAUs shall transfer trust funds to the region. The regional school union board shall be deemed the successor trustee for all purposes, except as provided by the trust or by applicable law.

9. **A transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year of the reorganized unit and interim personnel policies.**

A. The initial RSU board shall be elected in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1472-A and shall have the transitional powers and duties provided by 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1461-A.

B. Transition Plan for Personnel Policies. All personnel policies existing in the previous school administrative units shall continue to apply to the same employment positions after they become part of the regional school unit. The regional school unit board and superintendent will develop and adopt region-wide policies in accordance with applicable law.

10. **Documentation of the public meeting or public meetings held to prepare or review the reorganization plan.**

Minutes of the following public meetings held to prepare or review the reorganization plan are attached as Exhibit 10-A:

Date of Public Meeting	Time	Location
January 28, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Dexter Regional High School
February 11, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Dexter Regional High School
February 25, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Piscataquis Community Middle School
March 10, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Piscataquis Community Middle School
March 24, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Piscataquis Community Middle School
April 14, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Harmony Elementary School
April 28, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Harmony Elementary School
May 12, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Harmony Elementary School
June 9, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Dexter Regional High School
June 23, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Dexter Regional High School
July 7, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Dexter Regional High School
July 21, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Piscataquis Community Middle School
August 4, 2008	6:00 p.m.	Piscataquis Community Middle School
October 4, 2008	6:00 p.m.	Piscataquis Community Middle School
October 20, 2008	6:30 p.m.	Dexter Regional High School

11. **An explanation of how units that approve the reorganization plan will proceed if one or more of the proposed members of the regional school unit fail to approve the plan.**

If the plan is rejected by one or more SAUs, but is accepted by SAUs representing at least 80% of the average number of resident pupils within all of the SAUs in the proposed region, as measured by the average of the 2006 resident pupil counts; and by SAUs representing at least 80% of the aggregate fiscal capacity of the SAUs in the proposed region, then in such case the membership of the regional school unit shall include those SAUs that approved the plan.

12. An estimate of the cost savings to be achieved by the formation of a regional school unit and how these savings will be achieved.

The following estimates are just that: estimates. Any "savings" may likely be off set by other needs and functions that lay outside of central office, but are currently performed either by central office or in some other fashion.

The current climate of financial instability and complex variables combine to make estimating savings or additional expenses three years in advance particularly challenging.

With that in mind, we estimate that the formation of the regional school unit will result in the following costs during the first three years of operation:

First year – 2009 - 2010:

Estimated savings: **\$56,500**

Eliminate 1 part-time Superintendent	6,500
Reduce 1 Special Services Director to assistant director	10,000
Combine 2 maintenance directors and re-assign duties	20,000
Combine 2 transportation directors and re-assign duties	20,000

Estimated additional costs: **\$100,000**

Legal/Accounting	\$20,000
Office infrastructure	\$50,000
SIS system reconciliation	\$30,000

Year One Estimated Net savings (or costs): **(-\$43,500)**

Second year – 2010 - 2011:

Estimated savings: **\$56,500**
see above

Estimated additional costs: **\$75,000**

Year Two Estimated Net savings (or costs): **(-\$18,500)**

Third year – 2011 - 2012:

Estimated savings: \$65,500
See above - plus eliminate second part time superintendent (\$9,000)

Estimated additional costs: \$5,000
legal, office infrastructure, system reconciliation, IT costs

Year Three Estimated Net savings (or costs): **\$60,500**

Total estimated savings (or costs): (-\$1,500)

13. Such other matters as the governing bodies of the school administrative units in existence on the effective date of this chapter may determine to be necessary.

13-A. Plans to reorganize administration, transportation, building and maintenance, and special education.

The RSU will not become operational until 7-1-09 so this item does not apply as stipulated by the commissioner.

13-B. Cost Sharing in Regional School Units

The Regional School Unit may raise money, in addition to the required local contribution pursuant to Title 20-A, Section 15690, subsection 1 for educational purposes. The additional local costs of operating the Regional School Unit shall be shared among all the municipalities within the Regional School Unit on the basis of the following formula:

For the first three operational years of the RSU (FY2010, FY2011, and FY2012) each member municipality shall be responsible for its share of additional local funds, on a percentage basis in proportion to each municipality's three year average of additional local funds for FY2007, FY2008, and FY2009.

This local cost sharing formula applies only to the amount, if any, of additional local funds and non-state funded debt service raised by the Regional School Unit. It does not apply to the required local contributions raised by each municipality pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. § 15688.

Amendments to this cost sharing formula may incorporate any factor or combination of factors permitted by law in addition to or in lieu of fiscal capacity and resident pupils.

The method of amending the cost sharing formula is as follows:

A. If requested by a written petition of at least 10% of the number of voters voting in the last gubernatorial election within the regional school unit, or if approved by a majority of the full regional school unit board, the regional school unit board shall hold at least one meeting of municipal representatives to reconsider the method of sharing costs. The region shall give at least 15 days' notice to each municipality comprising the region of any meeting.

B. Each member municipality must be represented at the meeting or meetings by two representatives chosen at large by its municipal officers, and one member of the regional school unit board chosen by the municipality's municipal officers.

Prior to the first meeting of municipal representatives the region shall engage the services of a facilitator selected from the list, if any, maintained by the commissioner. The facilitator shall:

(1) At the first meeting, review and present data and information pertaining to sharing of costs within the region. Pertinent information may include, but is not limited to, a description of the region's cost-sharing method, the elements involved in the calculation of each municipality's costs and a graphic depiction of the current and historic distribution of costs in the region.

(2) Solicit and prepare a balanced summary of the concerns of municipal officials, educators and the public about the current method of cost sharing; and

(3) Develop a plan of action for consideration by the municipal representatives that responds to the information collected and the concerns raised. The plan of action must include a list of expectations for the conduct of the parties, options for proceeding and an assessment of the likely success of those options.

C. A change in the method of sharing costs may only be approved by a majority vote of the municipal representatives present and voting.

D. If a change in the cost-sharing method is approved by a majority of the municipal representatives meeting pursuant to paragraph A, the change must be submitted to the voters at a referendum election. It becomes effective when approved by a majority vote of the member communities of the region in a referendum called and held for this purpose in accordance with sections 1501-1504 of Title 20-A, except that, if the proposed change in cost-sharing plan is based in whole or part on factors other than fiscal capacity or pupil count, the change must be approved by a majority of voters voting in each municipality in the region.

E. If approved at referendum, assessments made by the regional school unit board thereafter must be made in accordance with the new method of sharing costs.

F. The secretary of the region shall notify the state board that the region has voted to change its method of sharing costs. The state board shall issue an amended certificate of organization showing this new method.

13-C. Election of initial board of directors. See, 20-A MRSA §1472-A.

13-D. Tuition Contracts and School Choice

The following SAUs offer some or all of their students a choice of which school to attend:

SAU	Description
Harmony	All students 9-12 may choose to attend any secondary school approved for tuition purposes.
Willimantic	Students in grades K-12 may attend any school approved for tuition purposes.

If the tuition payable to the choice school exceeds the RSU's tuition rate, the additional expense pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A.1479, sub-section 5 shall be an additional local assessment to the responsible municipality. The municipality may then assess the parent(s) for the amount of tuition paid over the established tuition rate for the RSU, including the Insured Value Factor.

Grade levels in the existing SAUs that have choice of schools as of the operational date shall continue to have the same choices in the RSU. At present, according to this plan, students in SAD #46 and SAD #4 do not have school choice.

Any towns in the RSU that have a student population with school choice (Harmony 9-12, Willimantic K-12) shall be responsible for the transportation of students attending a school outside the RSU.

13-E. Claims and Insurance

Disclosure of claims

The parties are aware of no lawsuits, administrative complaints, due process proceedings, notices of claim and other claims existing as of the submission date of this plan. (November 12th, 2008)

13-F. Vote to submit reorganization plan to Commissioner.

Before submitting a reorganization plan to the Commissioner of Education, the governing body of each school administrative unit shall adopt the following vote:

Vote to be Adopted by [School Committee/Board] to Submit Reorganization Plan to Commissioner:

VOTED: That the provisions included in the school reorganization plan prepared by the Regional Planning Committee to reorganize SAD #4, SAD #46, Harmony and Willimantic into a regional school unit with an operational date of July 1, 2009, are determined to be necessary within the meaning of Section XXXX-36(5)(M) and that the Superintendent of Schools be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to submit the school reorganization plan to the Commissioner of Education on behalf of this school administrative unit by January 30, 2009.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2008

I. Call to order

Paul Bridge called to order the regular meeting of the Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m. on January 28, 2008 at Dexter Regional High School.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Kevin Jordan, DRHS Supt., Paul Bridge, Ella Munday, Paul Stearns, SAD 4 Supt., John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onic Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, Charlotte Violette, Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Stephen Gudroe, Fred Sherburne, Anita Libby-Kain, Bradley Deane, Peter Devine, Rodney Farrar, Michelle Ward, Cindy Hoak, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, Ray Freeve, Facilitator, Andrew Seavey, Tom Goulette and Dave Fournier.

III. Opening Comments

Ray Freve started our meeting by giving us some updates from the State. We discussed L.D. 1932 which basically deals with financial changes to the Consolidation Law.

Thirteen Districts' plans have been rejected due to not having 1,200 students. The Legislature is being asked to amend the requirement to 1,000 students. That would bring twelve districts into compliance with the law.

The timeline for completing the plan and consolidating will be discussed but the Legislature is split on that issue. Some are asking for a July 2010 deadline instead of 2009. The consensus is to change the deadline, just not what the new date should be.

The Referendum to do away with the consolidation law did not get enough signatures to come up in November of 2008, but that committee is still working on getting it done in time for November 2009.

Mr. Freve stressed that the information is slow coming from the State. The information coming changes daily.

The group discussed our meetings and the timeline/calendar. We voted to keep the meetings on Mondays for now. The meetings will be held February 11th at DRHC, February 25th at PCMS, March 10th at PCMS, March 24th at PCMS, April 7th at Harmony, April 21st at Harmony and May 5th at Harmony. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Michelle Ward will be responsible for calling all members not in attendance at tonight's meeting to inquire whether they are still interested on serving on the committee. It was also suggested that committee members select an alternate to come in their place should they not be able to make a meeting.

As the portions of the plan become completed, the various committee chairs will send their notes to Michelle for submission into the electronic template. This will be published on the RPC Page in each District's website by Dave Fournier.

Discussion was also had regarding how to get the public information regarding the work we are doing, how hard it is to get correct information, etc. Members are encouraged to write "letters to the editor" for submission to the co-chairman. They will in turn provide these to Mr. Fournier for submission to the website. Cindy Hoak also suggested that some type of information or update go into the individual town's meeting books as those books are widely read throughout the communities.

IV. Sub-Committee Work

Governance:

After splitting up into sub-committees, the governance committee reported that all of their portions of the plan are ready to be put into writing and a first reading for the members at our next meeting. They will supply their information to Michelle Ward for distribution to the members before the next meeting. Those parts of the plan that were completed by this committee are Part 1 Partnership; Part 2 Size and Composition of the Board; Part 3 Method of Voting; Part 13D School Choice; Part 4 Local School Committees; Part 13C Election of RSU Board; Part 13B Cost sharing in RSU; and Part 13 G Justify less than 2500 students (This portion was completed by sending in our plan and having the State approve the plan.)

Property/Funds/Contracts

This committee reported that none of their sections, 5,6,7,8,13D or 13E were ready to be put into writing for a vote. They have supplied the superintendents with a list of items that they will need for the next meeting.

Cost Savings/Budget

This committee reported that Section 11 has been completed. They will supply the superintendents with a list of items they will need to complete Sections 13A, 9, and 12. They plan on working on Transportation and then Special Education.

V. A DJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2008

I. Call to order

Paul Bridge called to order the regular meeting of the Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m. on February 11, 2008 at Dexter Regional High School.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Kevin Jordan, DRHS Supt., Paul Bridge, Co-Chairman, Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Paul Stearns, SAD 4 Supt., John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, Charlotte Violette, Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Stephen Gudroe, Peter Devine, Michelle Ward, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, Ray Freve, Facilitator, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass and Steve Crane.

III. Opening Comments

Ray Freeve discussed new information from the State. LD1932 was submitted and tabled. We can pick any date to have our Referendum. The Referendum is to be paid for by the State. The State has sent that confirmation to the municipalities. John Parola questioned if the RPC votes yes for the plan and the towns vote no what happens. Ray explained that if a SAD votes down the plan it will be a penalized RSU and the SAD that did vote for the RSU plan will continue on as an RSU but will not be penalized.

Steve Foster asked that all questions asked during the opening comments be recorded. Brainstorming: Very few people are on the Budget/Cost Sharing Committee. The Governance Committee is almost done with their sections of the plan and they were asked to join the Cost Sharing Committee to assist them with their sections.

The Superintendents were asked what we are currently sharing. The oil and diesel purchases are loose cooperatives. The two SADs share in the purchases of bread and dairy products. They share classes through the ATM networks at the High Schools. Some transportation costs are shared for athletic events (e.g. golf) And some professional development costs are shared.

SAD 4 shares Adult Education services with SADs 68 and 41. SAD 4 purchases its busses through the State of Maine. SAD 4 has also been called to buy paper with other districts and this has been done in the past. Special Education sharing has been explored but seems to be problematic. There are occupational therapist, speech therapists, etc. and these are demanding jobs. If someone could work regionally there is a potential savings. Staff sharing is not currently done.

Paul Bridge asked about the labs at SAD 4 and asked about checking with Dexter to share labs. Paul Stearns stated that we might be able to share staff but sharing labs would be difficult because of bussing to get to the labs.

John Parola asked how severe the cuts coming down regarding Medicaid would be. He wondered if that could accelerate our thinking of staff sharing/staff reduction and whether there was a possibility of doing that sooner. Paul Stearns answered yes that was a possibility.

Dale Huff brought up the fact that we need to work on the curriculum and scheduling as that needs standardizing. The high schools are close in scheduling now.

Kevin Jordan mentioned that neither District was heavy with staff right now. Harmony has increased staff but decreased Administrative workers. The two SADs are at or near EPS. It was mentioned that if we share staff we'll lose programs.

Peter Devine asked about sharing food or any other food services. Paul Stearns answered that the food services requires constant attention. It is compared to the restaurant business and every item needs to be watched. Peter mentioned that it would be good to have one person oversee the food services program. Paul agreed and said there is tons of paperwork and that could be done out of one office.

Advanced Placement classes were discussed. Kevin Jordan explained that Advanced Placement classes limit classes to 15 students per class.

Charles Woodmancy asked about transportation and the fact that SAD 4 has 7 spare busses. Paul Stearns explained that the 7 spare busses are part of the formula in order to buy a bus every year to keep the fleet current. The State has imposed a \$3.00 fee for every fluid change and Paul stated that it may not be practical anymore to keep that many spare busses.

Onie Lougee asked about student/teacher ratios. SAD 4 elementary has 20/21 students in class. SAD 46 moves and adjusts staff with the class populations. SAD 4 will bottom out in student population in three years. High Schools are hard to make adjustments to staff due to certification and Highly Qualified Teachers requirements. Harmony currently has 27 students K-1, 26 students Grades 2&3, 19 students Grades 4 & 5, and 27 students Grades 6-8.

The transportation sheet that was handed out will be refigured and redistributed at the next meeting as some of the figures were wrong.

Kevin Jordan suggested having the bussing companies come to one of our meetings to make a presentation on bus costs.

The Governance Committee asked that we hold off voting on their proposed sections until our next meeting as they still had some items to discuss.

Ray Freeve suggested anyone wanting to see an approved RSU Plan can go to SAD51.com. Brunswick and South Portland also have an approved plan.

All 19 RPC Committee members voted to approve Section 11. An explanation of how units that approve the Reorganization Plan will proceed if one or more of the proposed members of the Regional School Unit fail to approve the plan.

IV. Sub-Committee Work

Governance

After splitting up into sub-committees, the governance committee reported that their items are ready for a vote except for 13B. The governance committee plans on assisting the costs sharing committee at the next meeting.

Property/Funds/Contracts

This committee reported that none of their sections, 5,6,7,8,13D or 13E were ready to be put into writing for a vote. They have reviewed the items requested from SAD 4 and will review the information from SAD 46 and Harmony at the next meeting.

Cost Savings/Budget

This committee reported that they need information back on transportation in order to correct the transportation handout from tonight. They would like contracting information and bus driver salary/benefit information. They will work on reorganization of administration at the next meeting and need information on costs from each of the districts. Charlotte will send the list of items needed to the Superintendents so they can have it ready for the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2008

I. Call to order

Paul Bridge called to order the regular meeting of the Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m. on February 25, 2008 at PCMS.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Kevin Jordan, DRHS Supt., Paul Bridge, Co-Chairman, Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Paul Stearns, SAD 4 Supt., John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, Charlotte Violette, Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Stephen Gudroe, Peter Devine, Michelle Ward, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, Ray Freeve, Facilitator, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass, Anita Kain, Brad Deane, George Nuite, Rodney Farrar, Fred Sherburne, and Tom Goulette.

III. Voting

The following items were discussed and voted on:

1. Choose name for Regional School Unit:

Maine Highlands School Unit Yes 17 No 1

Main Stream School Unit Yes 1 No 17

Motion carried to use the name "Maine Highlands School Unit"

2. Select two (2) members from each SAU plus Superintendents and Co-Chairs to meet with members from SAD #41 (Milo), SAD #68 (Dover-Foxcroft), and School Union #60 (Greenville) to discuss potential for cooperation with educational programs.

Discussion was had that some members were not in favor of collaboration as there is too much going on with our meetings right now. It's not that we won't consider this in the future but right now is not a good time.

Vote: Yes 0 No 18 Motion carries. No selections made.

3. Approve a governing board for the Regional School Unit with a minimum of two (2) members from each municipality with the Town of Guilford having three (3) member and Dexter having six (6) members for a total of 29. The Board will use a weighted vote method. Each School Board member shall serve a 3-year term, except that the initial terms of the members shall be staggered as provided by XXXX-40.

Discussion: Paul Bridge had calculated different methods of members. Peter Cooley explained the decision to have at least two members from each municipality was to cover illnesses, vacations, etc. This item was a great concern to all members that they have representation on the new Board. He also explained that with 29 members it would be possible for the members to be on only one committee which would mean less work.

Peter Cooley made the motion to accept the governing board as recommended by the Governance Committee. Cynthia Hall seconded the Motion. Yes 18 No 1

4. Approve student representatives to the Regional School Unit Board.

Discussion: Some discussion was had regarding whether we needed to vote on this item or leave it for the new Board to work on. Mr. Reeve suggested that if we want this included in the new RSU we need to put it in writing in our plan. If we vote we want students as representatives they will stay after the new Board starts. The Governance Committee recommended that we have the student representatives on the board. It was confirmed that the student reps will have no voting power.

Peter Devine made the motion to accept the student representatives as recommended by the Governance Committee. Cynthia Hall seconded the Motion. Yes 18 No 3

5. The RSU superintendent shall review school choice requests with RSU Board members of the towns from which the requests come.

Discussion: Paul Bridge mentioned having an oversight committee similar to Mayo Hospital, rather than giving the Superintendent the power to make the decision on school choice for the kids that live in Districts that currently have school choice. Harmony and Willimantic have school choice. The Superintendent in Harmony handles the decisions currently. The Governance Committee recommended that this issue did not apply to our RSU.

Peter Cooley made a motion to keep the Governance Committee recommendation that this is not applicable to our RSU. Steve Gudroe seconded the motion. Yes 21 No 0. Motion carried.

6. The additional local costs of operations of the Regional School Unit shall be shared among all the municipalities within the Regional School Unit on the basis of the following formula...

Discussion: Peter Devine commented that the Governance Committee didn't get to discuss this issue at the last meeting and he didn't believe that this item was ready for a vote. Peter Devine made the motion to table this item for a future meeting. Peter Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Review written documentation of tuition contracts and school choice.

Tuition contracts were discussed. A sheet was passed out which shows the Harmony Tuition Rates and the Willimantic Tuition Rates for the current year. Harmony also had tabulated the number of students they have tuitioned out to the area schools.

Election of the new board members: There was discussion and questions asked about how the new board will be elected. Ray noted that the Law tells how to elect the new members. Paul Bridge mentioned that most of the Towns have Town meetings and that is where the school board members are voted in. Dale Huff mentioned that we should include language that the new school board members terms should be staggered to allow for some stability with the new board. It was mentioned that we might need to have some legal advice regarding the new board member elections. Ray asked that we wait on paying for that legal advice until he has had a chance to ask questions to find out what other RSUs are doing. He will get that information to our Superintendents. The Superintendents also have the list of items that need to be completed prior to July 1st.

Ray passed out a Referendum Timeline.

Steve Foster brought up concern regarding naming the RSU prematurely. He didn't recall any discussion that we needed to name the RSU prior to its starting. Ray stated that 90% of RSUs are being named. Steve Foster mentioned that naming the RSU might be a concern for the voters and that the voters may vote the RSU down just because of the dislike of the name. Ella Munday noted that this was a valid concern and that at our Town Meetings, our members should get input at the Town Meetings regarding suggestions of what they might prefer for a name. Ray mentioned that the new RSU may review the name after they are set up and that we could put language in our plan for them to do that. It was also mentioned that our votes this evening are tentative votes and that we can make adjustments to any items prior to submitting the plan. Our plan is a working document and at the end we will review it for changes. It is important that all members attend the meetings regularly and if they have issues with any of the items voted on, it get brought up early so that we are not at the very end of our deadline with a lot of new changes. Please make every effort to attend the meetings.

IV. Sub-Committee Work

Governance

After splitting up into sub-committees, the governance committee reported that they have one item to discuss and that is regarding Section 11. They expect to have language regarding that for the next meeting.

Property/Funds/Contracts

This committee reported that none of their sections, 5,6,7,8,13D or 13E were ready to be put into writing for a vote. They have reviewed the items requested from SAD 46 and will review the information from Harmony at the next meeting.

Cost Savings/Budget

This committee reported that they worked on the issue of saving money at the Administrative level. They do not foresee any cost savings.

V. A DJOURNMENT

Michelle Ward made the motion to adjourn. Anita Kain seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2008

I. Call to order

Ella Munday called to order the regular meeting of the Regional Planning Committee at 6:30 p.m. on March 10, 2008 at PCMS.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Kevin Jordan, DRHS Supt., Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Paul Stearns, SAD 4 Supt., Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Stephen Gudroe, Peter Devine, Michelle Ward, Charles Woodman, Dale Huff, Ray Freeve, Facilitator, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass, Anita Kain, Brad Deane, George Nuite, Rodney Farrar, Fred Sherburne, and Andy Seavey.

III. Voting

There were no items presented for voting at this meeting. The Governance Committee needs to add some language to the School Choice piece and that should be ready to vote on next meeting.

IV. Discussion

Ray Freeve discussed that we need to file a report with the Commissioner by March 28th. We will be submitting that we are still working and progressing on the plan.

V. Sub-Committee Work

Governance

After splitting up into sub-committees, the governance committee reported that they had originally thought that the School Choice piece would be voted on at tonight's meeting. However, after speaking with Gil Reynolds, Gil requested that we wait on that vote as he had some language he would like added. They expect to have language regarding that for the next meeting.

They have come to an impasse regarding 13-C involving election of the initial board and also 13-B cost sharing due to the Legislature still working and Section 1932.

Property/Funds/Contracts

This committee reported that none of their sections, 5,6,7,8,13D or 13E were ready to be put into writing for a vote. They went through some of the documents from Harmony and expect to go through the rest when they are supplied for the next meeting. They went through each section, and basically they need to create lists. The Committee should have some sections ready for vote at the April meeting.

Cost Savings/Budget

This committee reported that they discussed and went over the Administrative Costs in the Central Offices of SADs 4, 46 and Harmony. They found that the bottom line is that all offices are relatively close in figures. Gil discussed having the staff from the Central Offices get together and propose what they would see needed for staffing and the required time needed for the positions.

OTHER:

It was agreed to table the minutes of the last meeting for further review and they would be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Michelle Ward made the motion to adjourn. Peter Devine seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2008

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. on **March 24, 2008** at PCMS.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, Stephen Gudroe, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, Ray Freeve, Facilitator, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass, Rodney Farrar, Tom Goulette, Paul Bridge, Charlotte Violette, Peter Cooley, Donna Olson, Paul Stearns
~~SAD #4 Supt., Kevin Jordan, SAD #46 Supt., Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt.~~

III. Voting

Tom Goulette made the motion to accept the minutes for the February 25, 2008 and March 10, 2008 meetings, with typographical errors corrected on the February 25, 2008 minutes, Steve Gudroe seconded the motion and the motion carried.

IV. Discussion

Ray Freeve discussed the great uncertainty in Augusta. LD 1932 will not pass and the so called Damon Amendment (Super Unions) is alive and well.

Co-chairs brought up the issue of expenditure of RPC funds for this committee. It was discussed how to split up the \$5,000. Motion was made by Peter Cooley and seconded by Charles Woodmancy to keep the funds until the end of the process and then make a distribution. Motion carried.

V. Sub-Committee Work

Governance

No report.

Property/Funds/Contracts

This committee reported they expect to develop draft language for most items at next meeting.

Cost Savings/Budget

This committee reported that they have reviewed what might be needed in central office. Will distribute to superintendents and discuss at next meeting for comments.

OTHER:

A sample plan has been received from Falmouth/Cumberland is available as at outline at DOE website and at MSAD #51.

The next three meetings at Harmony will be April 14, April 28, and May 12th.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Peter Cooley made the motion to adjourn. Steve Gudroe seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2008

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on April 14, 2008 at Harmony Elementary.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Steve Foster, Stephen Gudroe, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass, Rodney Farrar, Tom Goulette, Paul Bridge Co-Chair, Charlotte Violette, Peter Cooley, Brad Deane, George Nuite, Michelle Ward, Fred Sherburne, Peter Devine, Onie Lougee, Paul Stearns SAD #4 Supt., Kevin Jordan SAD #46 Supt., Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt.

III. Voting

Tom Goulette made the motion to accept the minutes for the March 24, 2008 minutes, Charles Woodmancy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Peter Devine made the motion to approve the School Choice language as submitted. Steve Gudroe seconded the motion and the motion carried.

IV. Discussion

It was reported that Ray Freeve, our facilitator will be absent for the April meetings due to his fulfilling the role as Superintendent for Dover Foxcroft until May 1st.

John Parola brought up the issue that he was not sure the group should still be working on moving forward until the Legislature has decided what they are doing with the school consolidation laws. Paul Bridge commented that the work the group is doing is producing data that can be used by all school boards in the future. Dale Huff expressed that he felt the group should hold off on meetings for awhile or get in touch with Skip Greenlaw regarding a repeal.

Paul Bridge stated that the House has voted to appeal the consolidation law, but the Senate still needs to vote and then it will go to the Governor. The present plan is to have our plan ready for vote at referendum on November 14th.

Steve Gudroe commented that what we have been voting on could very well be overturned by the Legislature and that we are basically playing defense. His opinion was that the group should wait for a while and see what happens at the State level.

Dale Huff also mentioned that it was obvious that we will not be able to keep our deadlines due to the fact the Legislature is running behind in deciding what to do with the consolidation laws.

Paul Bridge mentioned the fact that if we don't file a plan we could face penalties. Onie Lougee mentioned that it is very difficult to vote when we don't know the rules.

Peter Cooley also noted that the Legislature is going out as of Wednesday and he doesn't foresee any movement. He doesn't feel it makes any sense for us to move forward until we know what we are looking at.

Steve Foster stated that if we put our meetings on hold the committee that he is on could finish their work in a couple of hours. He was not sure that the savings committee could be done, but that we are not far away from completing our plan.

Peter Devine made the motion to postpone our official meetings until the Governor and the Legislature resolve the consolidation law issues.

Charles Woodmancy asked if the committees could still do work if they wanted and the answer was yes, it would be up to the committee chairs to call meetings together to do any further work.

Brad Deane moved to amend the motion to state that the Superintendents would be responsible for letting our Legislative leaders and representatives know that we will be postponing future meetings until the law is resolved. Charles Woodmancy seconded that amendment. The amendment carried.

Rodney Farrar noted that the Legislators would need to be notified by tomorrow that we will be postponing future meetings as the Legislator's last day was Wednesday.

Motion: To postpone all future official meetings of the full group until the Governor and the Legislature resolve the consolidation law issues, and that the Superintendents will notify our representatives tomorrow. Motion carried.

Brad Deane asked about what would happen with this scenario: A special education student from Harmony is entering the 9th grade. Where Harmony still has school choice for secondary education, who pays above and beyond for that student's education if that student cannot receive in house services from the RCU? The Superintendents were asked to get an answer to this question and to report back to members.

Dale Huff made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Charles Woodmancy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2008

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on April 28, 2008 at Harmony Elementary.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Stephen Gudroe, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, William Digby, Cynthia Hall, Phyllis Cass, Rodney Farrar, Tom Goulette, Paul Bridge Co-Chair, Charlotte Violette, Peter Cooley, Brad Deane, Michelle Ward, Peter Devine, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, John Parola, Andy Sevey, Donna Olsen, Paul Stearns SAD #4 Supt., Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Ray Freeve, Facilitator and Rep. Doug Thomas.

III. Discussion

Ray Freeve explained what happened during the Legislative Session and passed out handouts of the changes.

IV. Committee Reports

Governance Committee

Peter Devine reported that there are still some issues to resolve for example, the election of initial board of directors.

Cost Sharing

They are still progressing on their work but do not expect to have anything to vote on the next meeting.

Property/Funds/Contracts Committee

Julie Willcott reported that this committee will have some sections ready for the full committee to review at the next meeting.

Our next meeting is set for May 12, 2008 at the Harmony Elementary at 6:30 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2008

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on May 12, 2008 at Harmony Elementary. Peter Cooley made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting; it was seconded by Tom Goulette. Motion carried.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Stephen Gudroe, Charles Woodmancy, Dale Huff, William Digby, Phyllis Cass, Rodney Farrar, Tom Goulette, Paul Bridge Co-Chair, Charlotte Violette, Peter Cooley, Brad Deane, Michelle Ward, Peter Devine, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, John Parola, Andy Sevey, Donna Olsen, Paul Stearns SAD #4 Supt., Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Ray Freeve, Facilitator, and Kevin Jordan SAD #46 Supt.

III. Discussion

The following dates were set for future meetings: June 9th Dexter Cafeteria 6:30 p.m.; June 23rd Dexter Cafeteria 6:30 p.m.; July 14th Dexter Cafeteria 6:30 p.m.

Ray Freeve, Facilitator had nothing to report. Gil Reynolds asked Ray about the budget validation process for the current year. Gil also asked about whether or not the town would need to turn over real estate to the RSU.

John Parola asked about the recent contribution to SAD 4 for theater, music and asked if the new RSU would manage the money for that grant. The money that was donated will be used by SAD 4 and should a new RSU form, the language is included that the monies would be used for theater and music in the new RSU.

Paul Bridge asked how many RPCs had actually found cost savings. It was noted that the transitional costs of forming RPCs would outweigh any savings.

Kevin Jordan reported that there was a relaxation in the Governance piece of the laws and offered to the Governance Committee to review the number of school board members to be elected to the new RSU.

IV. Voted:

Steve Foster made a motion which was seconded by Steve Gudroe to accept Item 5 as presented by Julie Willcott, Property/Funds/Contracts Committee chair. Motion carried.

Item 6 – Debt. Regarding the loan for SAD 46 K-8 Building, the amounts are not known and won't be until October 2008. It was decided to enter TBD (To Be Determined) in the amount columns and we will revise the plan later with the figures once they are known. Steve Foster made a motion to accept Item 6, John Parola seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item 7. Item 7 had some changes and deletions of language and it was decided that this item will be presented at the next meeting for a vote.

Item 8 – Steve Foster made a motion and Steve Gudroe seconded the motion to accept Item 8 as presented. Motion carried.

V. Committee Reports

Governance Committee

Peter Devine reported that his committee believes they have completed the section regarding election of new board members and we will use the language the State has given us for that process.

Cost Sharing

They have attempted to crunch the numbers but have found it too complicated. They are asking the superintendents to assist with this Committee's work. They have worked on proposed figures and salaries and also discussed having one regional director for transportation and individual directors for the separate units. They have not found any cost savings to fill in the slots for Item 12.

Our next meeting is set for June 9, 2008 at the Dexter High School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2008

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on June 9, 2008 at Dexter Regional High School.

Peter Devine made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting; it was seconded by Tom Goulette.
Motion carried.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Stephen Gudroe, Charles Woodmancy, William Digby, Phyllis Cass, Rodney Farrar, Tom Goulette, Paul Bridge, Co-Chair, Charlotte Violette, Peter Cooley, Brad Deane, Michelle Ward, Peter Devine, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, John Parola, Cynthia Hall, Steve Crane, Andrea Rollins, Paul Stearns SAD #4 Supt., Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Ray Freeve, Facilitator, and Kevin Jordan SAD #46 Supt.

III. Voted:

The committee voted unanimously to accept Item 7 as written by the Property/Funds/Contracts Committee.

The committee voted to pass on voting on Item 13B Cost Sharing until further discussion could be had regarding that issue.

The committee voted unanimously to accept Item 13C with the following changes: The article was amended to read that the towns will vote for their school board member in the same manner in which the other officers of the municipality are elected in the individual municipalities of the RSU.

The committee voted to change the size of the Regional School Board, with four votes no and 1 abstention. The School Board will consist of 18 members.

We will discuss at our next meeting about setting the Referendum date.

The superintendents will meet and provide 4 to 5 scenarios to look at for cost sharing to discuss at our next meeting.

A hard copy of the plan as it stands right now will be distributed before the next meeting.

Our next meeting is set for June 23, 2008 at the Dexter High School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2008

The Committee approved the minutes for the June 9th meeting.

Members Present:

The following persons were present: Charles Woodmancy, Rodney Farrar, William Digby, Tom Goulette, Brad Deane, Andrea Rollins, Cynthia Hall, Paul Bridge, Michelle Ward, Phyllis Cass, Charlotte Violette, Steve Foster, Ella Munday, Steve Crane, Julie Willcott, Peter Devine, Steve Gudroe, John Parola, Peter Cooley, Donna Olsen, Onie Lougee, Paul Stearns, Kevin Jordan, Gil Reynolds, and Ray Freve.

Voting:

Steve Foster made a Motion which John Parola seconded to have a cost sharing formula based on 50% students and 50% valuation. Kevin Jordan suggested a three year transition period. He recommended the current percentages for the towns remain the same as the additional local percentages they are at right now. Ray commented that a lot of the districts have a transition period built into their plans. Steve and John withdrew their motion. Discussion was had regarding how long the transition period should be and the formula for the additional local. It was agreed that we would use the three-year average of EPS for the local additional. The group reviewed the Sample Plan 1 on Page 33 of the Revised Working Template for the language regarding the Cost Sharing Formula and decided that the language would be used up to the semicolon. The year averages would change from two to three and FY2007 would be added before the FY2008 in two places.

Steve Foster made a motion which Peter Cooley seconded to use the language as revised in the Sample Plan 1. This transition plan will stay in place for three years and into the future unless the new RSU board decides to change it. Charles Woodmancy called the motion. Three opposed, 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Item 4 of the agenda: Select staggered terms for initial Board of Directors. Tom Goulette made a motion to accept the table as presented. John Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item 5 of the agenda: Discuss costs created by forming an RSU. Discussion was had regarding the costs of the RSU involving communication, technology, legal, and differences in contracts.

Item 6 of the Agenda: Discuss specific benefits versus problems from forming RSU. Tom Goulette mentioned that AP classes would benefit, as we will have more students signing up for AP classes. Another benefit will be more effective classes. Paul Stearns mentioned the benefit of school choice within the District; for example, Wellington children would have the benefit of being able to attend the Harmony School. The group went over the plan to date. Item 9 of the plan has new language which Kevin had and that will be incorporated into the plan and presented at the next meeting.

As it was getting late, it was voted that we would hold our next meeting on Monday, July 7, 2008 at the Dexter Regional High School. Michelle Ward made the motion and Peter Devine seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2008

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on July 7, 2008 at Dexter Regional High School.

Peter Devine made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting; it was seconded by Cynthia Hall. Motion carried.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Ella Munday, Co-Chairman, Charles Woodmancy, William Digby, Rodney Farrar, Paul Bridge, Co-Chair, Charlotte Violette, Michelle Ward, Peter Devine, Onie Lougee, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, John Parola, Cynthia Hall, Dale Huff, Paul Stearns SAD #4 Supt., Gil Reynolds, Harmony Supt., Ray Freve, Facilitator, and Kevin Jordan SAD #46 Supt.

III. Voted:

Informational sheets were passed out regarding the actual figures on cost sharing for 13-B which was approved at the last meeting.

Steve Foster made a Motion and Charles Woodmancy seconded the Motion to have 13-A of the plan read as follows:

"The Regional Planning Committee recommends that the RSU board consider maintaining the current administrative staff through a practical transition period and consider the following administrative structure thereafter: One Superintendent, One Transportation Supervisor, One Special Services Director, One Special Services Assistant Director and One Maintenance Supervisor." Motion carried.

Charles Woodmancy made a Motion and Steve Foster seconded the Motion to have 13-D include language: "Any towns in the RSU that have a student population with school choice (Harmony 9-12, Willimantic K-12) shall be responsible for any special education costs incurred that are beyond routine. Examples of such costs would be accommodation for special transportation, staffing, out of district placements, summer programming and non-routine testing services." Charles Woodmancy called the Motion. 2 Opposed the Motion. Motion carried.

Julie Willcott made the Motion and William Digby seconded the Motion to change the language in 13-E to read as follows: "The parties are aware of no lawsuits, administrative complaints, due process proceedings, notices of claim and other claims existing as of the date of filing the plan." Motion carried.

Charles Woodmancy made the Motion and William Digby seconded the Motion to amend 9A to read as the revised template states. The language will be included in the updated plan. Motion carried.

Steve Foster brought up the fact that he did not feel that we should have the name Maine Highlands RSU and thought that the new RSU Board and the public should share in the naming. Charles Woodmancy made the Motion to rescind the name and Dale Huff seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Timeline for Referendum: It was discussed that we should try to have the Referendum on November 4th in order to try and get the biggest turnout we can. Peter Devine made the Motion and Charlotte Violette seconded the Motion to have the Referendum date on November 4th. We also voted to have the plan complete on July 21st, the SAU vote to submit the plan no later than August 20th and the other deadlines in that column of the handout would stay the same.

Paul Stearns will make sure the updated plan will go out to all members before the next meeting. The next meeting to approve the plan will be July 21st at PCMS – Guilford at 6:30 p.m. The Superintendents and Co-Chairs will get together to decide the dates of the informational public meetings and have those dates at the next meeting.

Peter Devine made a Motion to adjourn and Dale Huff seconded the Motion.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2008

The Committee approved the Minutes for the July 7th Meeting.

Members Present:

The following persons were present: Charles Woodmancy, Rodney Farrar, William Digby, Tom Goulette, Brad Deane, Andrea Rollins, Cynthia Hall, Paul Bridge, Michelle Ward, Phyllis Cass, Charlotte Violette, Steve Foster, Ella Munday, Peter Devine, Steve Gudroe, John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onie Lougee, John Tatko, Ouida Smythe, Paul Stearns, Gil Reynolds and Ray Freeve.

The Committee reviewed the plan again. Discussion was had regarding the language on 13-D, Page 14. The language regarding school choice and special education costs were discussed and it was suggested that a paragraph regarding the schools that don't have school choice be added to state that they would share in the costs of any special education costs that were beyond routine. Paul Stearns passed out a revised sheet with the new paragraph included.

Peter Devine made the motion to accept the plan as revised. Peter Cooley seconded the motion. All but one committee member voted yes. Discussion was had as to what needed to be changed in order for the committee member to vote yes. Section 10 regarding the public meetings was addressed. It was Mr. Bridge's opinion that the Committee should meet with the public prior to the plan being sent to the State for approval. This would give the public an opportunity to discuss the plan. He suggested that the Committee schedule a public meeting the first week in August. Paul Bridge made the Motion, Steve Gudroe seconded the motion. Vote for the meeting to be held the first week in August passed with five members opposed. John Parola made a motion and Steve Gudroe seconded the motion to have the meeting on Monday, August 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Piscataquis Community Middle School. Motion passed with two members opposed.

Steve Foster made the motion to accept the plan as amended tonight. Steve Gudroe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

All Committee members should plan on attending the public meeting on August 4, 2008 6:00 p.m. at PCMS in Guilford.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes

Public Meeting held at PCMS 8/4/08 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

The following persons were present: Charles Woodmancy, Rodney Farriar, William Digby, Tom Goulette, Cynthia Hall, Paul Bridge, Michelle Ward, Ella Munday, Steve Gudroe, John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onie Lougee, Donna Olsen, George Nuite, Julie Willcott, Ralph Huff, Paul Stearns, Kevin Jordan, and Gil Reynolds.

20 members of the public attended the meeting.

Paul Bridge started the meeting by explaining that we would be taking input from the public and then reviewing the proposed plan.

A question was asked by the public regarding the fact that since we will not be joining high schools how with the RSU save money with two superintendents? Paul Bridge responded that the RSU committee could not find any savings.

Another question asked by the public was what the penalty was for not voting for the RSU. Paul Stearns responded that if during the vote in November, SAD 4 voted no the penalty would be approximately \$133,000. The State would increase the local mill expectation by two percent. The SAD 46 penalty would be approximately \$161,685.

Another question asked by the public was what the penalty for not submitting a plan was. Paul Stearns advised that he was not sure of the answer to that, but he believed that state subsidy could be withheld.

Would the penalty be a one-time penalty? Paul Stearns answered that one way to look at the penalty was that in ten years time the District was giving up \$1 million dollars. Another way to look at it would be to budget the loss and if everything stays static, the District would move forward without it.

Question was asked by the public if the RSU committee had found any increases in costs. Paul Bridge responded yes, for example, the employee contracts would cause an increase. John Parola responded that over the months the RSU has spent on this plan they were asking where and how to save money. The committee decided that was not their task, it was their task to do the plan and present that to the public, the new RSU board would need to determine the savings, if any. Paul Bridge responded that the Districts are already collaborating and have agreements in place.

A member of the public stated that if the RSU saw no savings and they have no answer to what expenses the Towns would incur, then how could the people vote for the plan. There is nothing solid in the plan to vote on. He stated it was a lousy set up and no one will vote on it. The plan is State driven.

Charles Woodmancy responded that the RSU board members continuously asked questions while working on the plan and that the RSU members would either receive no answer or different answers to the same questions asked, which made it very difficult to move forward with their work.

A member of the public asked what the difference was between reorganizing and keeping things the way they are right now, especially if there is no savings. Paul Bridge responded that the Governor needed to do a budget and he needed money. This proposal to reorganize went through and was passed by the Legislature.

A member of the public stated she was confused because she was under the understanding that there would only be one superintendent when the new RSU was formed but she doesn't understand why both superintendents are staying on. Paul Stearns responded that it is because the law also required that all superintendent contracts be honored, which means that the two superintendents, even if not chosen to be the superintendent for the new RSU, could stay on in some capacity until their contracts expire.

The public asked a question whether or not the Governor could change this plan. Paul Bridge responded that this could be changed by the Legislature at any time.

A member of the public stated that he wanted to thank the RSU committee for all of the hours they had put in and the job they had done to get the plan ready for submission.

Charles Woodmancy asked the question: "If this is the law and the new RSU goes forward, is there any turning back?" Doug Smith responded that there was no exit, once the new RSU is formed there is no turning back.

The public meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The RSU Committee members met after the public meeting.

Ella Munday announced that the Dexter public meeting date has been changed to October 9th. Willimantic will be holding their public meeting October 22nd at 6:30 at their Town hall. It was discussed and decided that the individual members of the RSU committee will attend their own public meetings and that the full committee is not needed at all of the four meetings.

Gil Reynolds asked for clarification that the individual school boards would only be voting to submit the plan and not to make changes to the plan. He was correct.

John Parola asked for clarification that the minutes of the public meeting for tonight would be attached to the plan. He was correct.

Paul Stearns clarified that only one plan would be sent in to the commissioner. The plan will be sent on August 22nd.

Discussion was had regarding compensation of committee members. It was suggested that the committee members be reimbursed by attendance count. It was also discussed that this would be the last RSU Committee Meeting if all of the school boards vote to submit the plan to the Commissioner. Michelle Ward will go through the minutes of the meetings to tally up the attendance records for committee members. Peter Cooley made a motion to accept the recommendation to compensate committee members based on attendance, Ella Munday seconded the motion. Motion carried with one member opposed.

Tom Goulette asked if there were any administrative costs outstanding. Michelle has already been compensated and there may be some final costs attributed to tonight's meeting.

Paul Bridge made the motion to adjourn. Tom Goulette seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
PCMS 10/4/08 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

The following persons were present: Charles Woodmancy, Rodney Farrar, William Digby, Paul Bridge, Michelle Ward, Ella Munday, Steve Gudroe, John Parola, Peter Cooley, Onie Lougee, George Nuite, Julie Willcott, Ralph Huff, Brad Deane, Peter Devine, Steve Foster, Paul Stearns, Kevin Jordan, and Gil Reynolds. Ella Munday called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Adjustments: Page 11, Item 10: the dates of the public meetings have been deleted except for the 8/4/08 meeting. Peter Cooley made the motion to accept the adjustment. Julie Wilcott seconded. Motion carried.
2. Item 5 Julie Wilcott made the motion to accept the new language. Paul Bridge seconded. Motion carried.
3. Regarding savings: Ray saw Ray Poulin and the review team for the State has been changed. Ray Poulin suggested that we use language from another plan that has been approved regarding savings. The facilitator told Mr. Poulin that was exactly what we had done. Discussion was had regarding listing the savings and the increases from transition costs. Peter Devine, Paul Bridge and John Parola agreed to get together to find costs savings. Michelle Ward made the motion to table this item until the next meeting. Peter Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Julie Wilcott made the motion to amend the Agenda to vote on 13 A. Steve Foster seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. Item 13B. Kevin explained that all the language in red was required by State law. Julie Wilcott made the motion to accept the changes. Peter Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried with one opposed.
6. Item 13D Kevin explained that the language in red was the State law. It was agreed to leave the last paragraph in and add "outside of the RSU" to the last two sentences at choice. Steve Foster made the motion to accept the change. Rodney Farrar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. Steve Foster made the motion to approve Item 6 on the agenda as read. Peter Cooley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
8. Vote date: the last legal date to vote is 1/30/09. Peter Cooley made the motion to set the date to vote on 1/27/09. Michelle Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Peter Cooley made the motion to adjourn. Steve Foster seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

RPC
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2008 DHRS

I. Roll call

The following persons were present: Charles Woodmancy, Rodney Farrar, Paul Bridge Co-Chair, Charlotte Violette, Michelle Ward, Julie Willcott, Steve Foster, John Parola, Dale Huff, Andrea Rollins, Tom Goulette, William Digby, Steve Gudroe, Paul Stearns SAD #4 Supt., and Kevin Jordan SAD #46 Supt.

Steve Gudroe had a question regarding 13-B (D) regarding the wording in sentence two. "It becomes effective when approved by a majority vote of the member communities of the region in a referenced..." He wanted to make sure that meant the majority of the towns. It was discussed that the lawyers will look at that language but it is meant the majority of the towns.

Section 10: John Parola brought up that if the RPC wasn't going to regroup and meet again, how would we know when the public meetings will be held. It was discussed and Paul Stearns will make sure an email goes out to RPC members letting them know when the individual public meetings will be held as soon as they are scheduled.

Section 12: Paul Stearns went over the estimates of the cost savings. It was discussed that the committee was just putting in numbers to placate the State/Gendron. It was brought up that six weeks ago we couldn't come up with any cost savings but now we can. It was brought up that we should just ask the State to put in a number. Steve Gudroe mentioned that we are going to have to answer to the public regarding our cost savings. The group did not agree with other RPC groups that are putting their penalties they are saving by complying with the law as a cost savings.

Section 13B: The word "method" was added to the end of the sentence of the last Paragraph F.

Section 13D: Last paragraph, after the word students, we added "outside the RSU".

Section 13E: We voted to submit the plan by November 12, 2008. We also agreed that the Superintendents can clean up the wording in the plan, so long as it doesn't change the meaning.

The Superintendents will send an email out the RPC members notifying us when the State has made its decision on our plan.

Paul Bridge made the motion and Tom Goulette seconded the motion to send the amended plan on to the School Boards for their vote to send the plan on to the State. Motion carried.

John Parola made the motion to adjourn, Michelle Ward seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.